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BROAD MASSACHUSETTS LIFE SCIENCES WORKFORCE STUDY TO BEGIN

RECOMENDATIONS WILL GUIDE TRAINING NEEDS FOR THE NEXT DECADE

BOSTON, MA (June 8)—To ensure that Massachusetts has the skilled workforce it needs to sustain its life sciences supercluster, the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center and the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council boards voted yesterday to fund the Life Sciences Talent Initiative, a broad life science workforce study conducted by the UMass Donahue Institute that will guide the state for the next decade.

“Governor Patrick, in his recent and important \$1 billion Life Sciences announcement, highlighted the need for targeted workforce training,” said Daniel O’Connell, Office of Housing and Economic Development Secretary and the Board Chair of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, created in 2006 in part to examine statewide strategies to promote the life sciences industry. “The Life Sciences Talent Initiative study will give us actionable workforce training information, and allow us to guide citizens into areas of need.”

“On behalf of our membership, which includes biotechnology companies, higher education, and hospitals, we are pleased to be joining this important partnership,” says Mark Robinson, Chief Operating Officer, Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, the state’s biotechnology trade association. “This study will help ensure that the workforce engine that runs our supercluster is well positioned.”

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“The UMass Donahue Institute is very pleased to be taking on this exciting study,” says Lynn Griesemer, Executive Director, UMass Donahue Institute, who will be leading the study. “The Institute has a strong history in both workforce training and economic development analysis and is well-positioned to meet the needs of this important effort.”

The \$250,000 study, which is eighty percent funded by the Life Sciences Center, has four key elements:

- It will undertake, in collaboration with industry, state government and public higher education, a systematic analysis of the current and future talent needs of the industry and the capacity of higher education to respond to those needs;
- To describe current Massachusetts strategies for life sciences education and training, and examine successful models from Massachusetts and competitor states and nations;
- To develop recommendations on the actions that state government, industry and higher education need to take to respond to the gap between current/future needs and the capacity to meet them; and,
- To identify trends in the industry and monitor the progress made in meeting the recommendations in the year following the completion of the study.

University of Massachusetts President Jack Wilson, a member of the Life Sciences Center Board, expresses his "strong support for the design of the study that engages government, industry, and higher education in the discussion from the very beginning."

Massachusetts Life Sciences Center

<http://www.masslifesciences.com/>

Financed by the state's legislature through the 2006 Economic Stimulus Bill, the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) was established to attend to issues related to the life sciences field. Conceptualized to address a broad spectrum of topics including nanotechnology and bio-defense, The Center is meant to promote the best available research in life sciences, foster health care outcomes and support state-wide strategies while encouraging cooperation among public and private institutions.

The Massachusetts Biotechnology Council

<http://massbio.org/>

The Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MBC) is the nation's oldest biotechnology trade association. Founded in 1985, the MBC is a not-for-profit organization that represents and provides services and support for the Massachusetts biotechnology industry.

The MBC is committed to advancing the development of critical new science, technology and medicines that benefit people worldwide. Representing over 500 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, research hospitals, and service organizations involved in life sciences and health care, the MBC works to advance policy and promote education, while providing member programs and events, industry information, and services.

The Donahue Institute

<http://www.donahue.umassp.edu/>

Established in 1971, the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute is the public service, outreach, and economic development unit of the University of Massachusetts President's Office. The Donahue Institute's Research and Evaluation Unit specializes in applied social science research, program evaluation, market research, policy research, and needs assessment. In collaboration with client organizations, the UMass Donahue Institute has developed over 400 reports, surveys, manuals, newsletters, and other publications of use to the public, including MassBenchmarks, a quarterly economics journal published by the University of Massachusetts in cooperation with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. The Donahue Institute also houses the Massachusetts State Data Center: <http://www.massbenchmarks.org/statedata/statedata.htm>

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